

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A graphics display module for use with an image pickup device, a system memory and an image display device in a computer system, comprising:
 - a data compressing device in communication with said image pickup device, compressing a digital image data received from said image pickup device into a compressed image data;
 - an image data storage unit in communication with said compressing device and said system memory for storing said compressed image data, said compressed image data being transmitted to said system memory in a DMA mode; and
 - a data decompressing device in communication with said image data storage unit and said image displaying device, decompressing said compressed image data stored in said image data storage unit to recover said digital image data that is then transmitted to said image displaying device for display.
2. The graphics display module according to claim 1 wherein said data compressing device and said data decompressing device are integrated into a graphics chip.
3. The graphics display module according to claim 2 wherein said graphics chip is disposed in a graphics card.
4. The graphics display module according to claim 3 wherein said image data storage unit is a frame buffer defined in a local memory of said graphics card.
5. A graphics display module for use with an image pickup device, a system memory and an image display device in a computer system, comprising:
 - a data compressing device in communication with said image pickup device, compressing a digital image data received from said image pickup device into a compressed image data;
 - an image data storage unit in communication with said compressing device,

disposed in said system memory for storing said compressed image data; and a data decompressing device in communication with said image data storage unit and said image displaying device, decompressing said compressed image data stored in said image data storage unit to recover said digital image data that is then transmitted to said image displaying device for display.

6. The graphics display module according to claim 5 wherein said data compressing device and said data decompressing device are integrated into a graphics chip that is disposed in a north-bridge chip of said computer system.

7. The graphics display module according to claim 6 wherein said image data storage unit is an AGP memory defined in said system memory of said computer system.

8. A computer system, comprising:

a core logic unit;

a system memory accessible by said core logic unit;

an image pickup device receiving and converting an analog image signal into a digital image data;

a data compressing device in communication with said image pickup device, compressing said digital image data into a compressed image data;

an image data storage unit in communication with said data compressing device for storing therein said compressed image data;

a data decompressing device in communication with said image data storage unit, decompressing said compressed image data stored in said image data storage unit to recover said digital image data; and

an image display device in communication with said data decompressing device, receiving and displaying said digital image data.

9. The computer system according to claim 8 wherein said data compressing

device and said data decompressing device are integrated in a graphics chip.

10. The computer system according to claim 9 wherein said graphics chip is disposed in a graphics card in communication with said core logic unit.

11. The computer system according to claim 10 wherein said image data storage unit is a frame buffer defined in a local memory of said graphics card.

12. The computer system according to claim 9 wherein said graphics chip is integrated with said core logic unit.

13. The computer system according to claim 12 wherein said core logic unit is a north-bridge chip.

14. The graphics display module according to claim 8 wherein said image data storage unit is a specified memory block defined in said system memory.

15. The computer system according to claim 8 wherein said image pickup device and said image display device are disposed in a graphics card.

16. A graphics display method for use in a computer system, said computer system comprising an image pickup device, an image data storage unit and an image display device, and said method comprising steps of:

compressing a digital image data received from said image pickup device into a compressed image data;

storing said compressed image data into said image data storage unit; and

decompressing said compressed image data to recover said digital image data before said digital image data are to be played by said image display device.

17. The method according to claim 16 wherein said compressing and decompressing steps are performed by a graphics card.

18. The method according to claim 16 wherein said compressing and decompressing steps are performed by a north-bridge chip.

19. The method according to claim 16 wherein said image data storage unit

where said compressed image data are stored is a specified memory block of a system memory.

20. The method according to claim 16 wherein said image data storage unit where said compressed image data are stored is a frame buffer of a local memory.

21. The method according to claim 20 further comprising a step of transmitting said compressed image data to a system memory in a DMA mode.